

**SAFETY COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
6/20/00**

**Attendees:** Jose L. Bucio, David Newby, Neill DeClercq, Chris Henderson, John Metcalf, John Burrow, Frank Conway, Judy Norman-Nunnery, and Jean Culbert.

**Topics:** Information Request -- Judy Norman-Nunnery informed the group of an open records request made in mid-May by the Wisconsin State Journal for specific accident information on each employer receiving a safety report card from the WC Division. The Research and Statistics Section provided selective information on each employer, but omitted statistical information provided by the Unemployment Insurance Division regarding employee numbers and wages. The WC Division sent a letter to all employers receiving a safety report card advising them of the Wisconsin State Journal's request. To date, no articles have appeared and no additional information requests have been received.

Program Assessment – Frank Conway presented a summary of the “report card” initiative to the group. Statistics show declining injury rates and declining claim numbers. Commission members were concerned about how we compare to other Midwestern states with similar industries. Frank noted Wisconsin is unique in that its manufacturing and industry population is primarily composed of many smaller companies as compared to other states with larger companies and only a few small companies.

Additional comments and ideas for measuring the success of the safety report card initiative included: 1) compare employers to themselves for improvement statistics; 2) use external comparison to national injury figures; and 3) interested in averages for claim – length of time from claim reported to becoming litigated, days off work, etc. Frank will work up a format and share a draft form with Commission members.

It was mentioned that the Worker's Compensation Research Institute is working on a benchmarking project to better enable comparisons between states. However, each state has its own law governing work injury claims. John Metcalf thought the focus should be on our targeted employer group and monitoring their improvement. David Newby asked if the rate of injury is improving for these employers. Also, is the group of employers changing – some dropping off and others coming on?

Frank indicated the methodology for identifying “report card” employers changed from the previous year. Therefore, it would be hard to make a comparison for improvement between these two years. However, the methodology would now be the same for future years so a comparison could be done beginning next year.

2000-01 Initiative – The WC Advisory Council reviewed the group's recommendations for this year's safety initiative. Based on effectiveness and cost projections, the WCAC chose the telephone survey option. John Burrow was introduced as the summer intern that would help develop and conduct the telephone survey. Judy will issue a letter to companies advising they will receive a survey and explain the program goals.

Survey areas were outlined:

- find deficit of employer – point employer to resource to help correct;
- identify tactics safe employers use;
- injury profile for each employer as contact;
- changes in program ( why / why not); and
- SIC code accuracy for employer.

Results of survey should identify what needs to be done by each employer. WC Division should provide resource contact for employer.

David Newby suggested the survey would also provide the characteristics of firms with bad safety records. The next step would be to budget for a position to work with these employers, and in 2-3 years WC would be doing telephone safety consultations. It was noted that the Department of Commerce already has an OSHA Consultation Program.

It was also questioned as to how many self-insured employers were on the "report card" listing. Frank thought about 10 employers were self-insured. He will pull the figures from the claim database, and also see how many employers are in the pool and which insurance carrier they have. Judy indicated she would contact OSHA to begin negotiations for a cooperative safety program.

The members agreed to meet later in the year (possibly September) to review the survey results.